

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A image processing apparatus
comprising:

5 user information storing means for storing
user information related to a seller or a buyer of
the image processing apparatus; and

multiplexing means for multiplexing the
user information to an output image.

10 2. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, wherein said user information
is obtained when the image processing apparatus is
sold through a network.

15 3. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 1, further comprising information
setting means for setting a predetermined
information related to the seller or the buyer of
the image processing apparatus;

20 wherein the multiplexing means for
multiplexing the predetermined information to an
output image.

25 4. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined
information is a public key certification.

5. An image processing apparatus
according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined

information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

5 6. An electronic commerce system which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the system comprising;

information setting means for setting information related to a seller or a buyer obtained through the network; and

10 multiplexing means for multiplexing said information set by the information setting means to an output image.

15 7. An electronic commerce system according to claim 6, wherein the information set by the information setting means is a public key certification.

20 8. An electronic commerce system according to claim 6, wherein the information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

25 9. An image processing method comprising:

user information storing step for storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing apparatus; and

30 multiplexing step for multiplexing the user information to an output image.

10. An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein said user information is obtained when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

5 11. An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising, an information setting step for setting a predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus;

10 wherein the multiplexing step is for multiplexing the predetermined information to an output image.

15 12. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

20 13. An image processing method according to claim 11, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

25 14. An electronic commerce method which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the method comprising:

information setting step for setting information related to a seller or a buyer obtained through the network; and

multiplexing step for multiplexing said information set by the information setting step to information of an output image.

15. An electronic commerce method according to claim 14, wherein the information set the information setting step is a public key certification.

16. An electric commerce method according to claim 14, wherein the information is information to specify a objective use on a database.

17. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes, for executing image processing on an image processing apparatus, said product including:

user information storing procedure codes for storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and multiplexing procedure codes for multiplexing the user information to a output image.

18. A computer program product, comprising a computer readable medium having computer program codes which perform an electronic commerce through a network system connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the computer program product comprising;

information setting procedure codes for
setting information related to a seller or a buyer
obtained through the network; and

5 multiplexing procedure codes for
multiplexing said information set by the information
setting means to information of an output image.

19. An image processing method for an
image processing apparatus comprising:

10 user information storing step for storing
user information related to a seller or a buyer of
the image processing apparatus; and

10 multiplexing step for multiplexing the
user information to a output image.

15 20. An image processing method according
to claim 19, wherein the user information includes a
public key certification or the account number of
the buyer or the information of the buyer's credit
card.

20 21. An image processing method according
to claim 19, wherein the user information includes
information of the seller or information of date of
sale or information selling the image processing
25 apparatus.

30 22. An image processing method according
to claim 19, wherein the user information is stored
according as a driver of the image processing
apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

23. An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using digital watermark.

24. An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

25. An image processing method according to claim 19, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

26. An image processing method for a image processing apparatus comprising:

user information receiving step for receiving user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing product from the image processing product; and

multiplexing step for multiplexing the user information to a output image.

27. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information includes a public key certification or the account number of the buyer or the information of the buyer's credit card.

28. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information includes information of the seller or information of date of

sale or information selling the image processing apparatus.

29. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the user information is stored according as a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

30. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using digital watermark.

31. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

32. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

33. An image processing method according to claim 26, wherein the image processing product includes a personal computer or a scanner or an image processing software.

34. An image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and

a controller multiplexing the user information to an output image.

35. An image processing apparatus according to claim 34, wherein said user information is obtained when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

36. An image processing apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising a processor setting a predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus;

wherein the controller multiplexing the predetermined information to an output image.

37. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

38. An image processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

39. An electronic commerce system which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the system comprising:

a processor setting information related to a seller or a buyer obtained through the network;
and

a controller multiplexing said information set by the processor to an output image.

5

40. An electronic commerce system according to claim 39, wherein the information set by the processor is a public key certification.

10

41. An electronic commerce system according to claim 39, wherein the information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

15

42. An image processing method comprising:

storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing apparatus;
and

20

multiplexing the user information to an output image.

25

43. An image processing method according to claim 42, wherein said user information is obtained when the image processing apparatus is sold through a network.

44. An image processing method according to claim 42, further comprising setting a

predetermined information related to the seller or the buyer of the image processing apparatus;

wherein the multiplexing process is multiplexing the predetermined information to an output image.

5

45. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein the predetermined information is a public key certification.

10

46. An image processing method according to claim 44, wherein the predetermined information is information to specify an objective use on a database.

15

47. An electronic commerce method which performs electronic commerce connecting one terminal with another terminal through a network, the method comprising:

20

setting information related to a seller or a buyer obtained through the network; and

multiplexing said information set by the setting to information of an output image.

25

48. An electronic commerce method according to claim 47, wherein the information set the information setting process is a public key certification.

30

49. An electronic commerce method according to claim 47, wherein the information is

information to specify an objective use on a database.

50. An image processing method for an image processing apparatus comprising:

5 storing user information related to a seller or a buyer of the image processing apparatus; and

multiplexing the user information to an output image.

10 51. An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information includes a public key certification or the account number of the buyer or the information of the buyer's credit card.

15 52. An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information includes information of the seller or information of date of sale or information selling the image processing apparatus.

20 53. An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the user information is stored according as a driver of the image processing apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

25 54. An image processing method according to claim 50, wherein the multiplexing is performed by using digital watermark.

30

55. An image processing method according to claim 54, wherein the digital watermark is added in a spatial area of the output image.

56. An image processing method according to claim 54, wherein the digital watermark is added in a frequency area of the output image.

57. An image processing method for an image processing apparatus comprising:

receiving user information related to a seller or a buyer of an image processing product from the image processing product; and

multiplexing the user information to an output image.

58. An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information includes a public key certification or the account number of the buyer or the information of the buyer's credit card.

59. An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information includes information of the seller or information of date of sale or information selling the image processing apparatus.

60. An image processing method according to claim 57, wherein the user information is stored

according as a driver of the image processing
apparatus is downloaded or is installed.

61. An image processing method according
to claim 57, wherein the multiplexing is performed
by using digital watermark.

62. An image processing method according
to claim 61, wherein the digital watermark is added
in a spatial area of the output image.

63. An image processing method according
to claim 61, wherein the digital watermark is added
in a frequency area of the output image.

64. An image processing method according
to claim 57, wherein the image processing product
includes a personal computer or a scanner or an
image processing software.